

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-10 OES-07
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 22 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED RESULTS OF LATEST HARRIS POLL
WHICH SHOW THAT 71 TO 15 PERCENT MAJORITY FAVORS DETENTE.
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LOUIS HARRIS NOTED THAT YEAR AGO, SLIGHTLY HIGHER 75 TO 10
PERCENT MAJORITY SUPPORTED DETENTE, WHILE IN 1976, 73 TO 16
PERCENT MAJORITY HELD SAME VIEW. HARRIS SAID 75 TO 12
PERCENT MAJORITY FAVORS U.S. AND SOVIET UNION COMING TO NEW
SALT AGREEMENT. YEAR AGO, MARGIN WAS 66 TO 8 PERCENT.
HARRIS SAID IN PAST 14 MONTHS, SUPPORT FOR SALT HAS GONE UP
NINE POINTS. HARRIS SAID "MASSIVE MAJORITIES" FAVOR AN

AGREEMENT TO END ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING (74 TO 17 PERCENT), AND U.S. GRANTING SOVIET UNION "SAME TRADING RIGHTS WITH US AS MOST OTHER NATIONS HAVE (63 TO 12 PERCENT). HARRIS SAID IT IS CLEAR FROM APRIL 29-MAY 6 SURVEY OF 1,563 ADULTS NATIONWIDE THAT THERE IS STILL FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR DETENTE IN U.S. "LARGE MAJORITIES FEEL THAT IN NUCLEAR ERA, CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN TWO LEADING NATIONS IN WORLD MUST BE AVOIDED." AMERICANS DO NOT WANT PROGRESS OF SALT TALKS AND PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED TRADE LINKED TOO CLOSELY WITH SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOVIET UNION, HARRIS POINTED OUT. "PUBLIC BELIEVES THAT POLICY OF PLURALISM MUST BE CORNERSTONE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IN THIS ADVANCED NUCLEAR AGE."

2. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT THAT NINE SENATORS, IN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, SAID THEY WILL OPPOSE SALT AGREEMENT UNLESS SOVIETS END THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AND HALT PERSECUTION OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. SEVEN REPUBLICANS AND TWO DEMOCRATS WERE SENATORS HOWARD BAKER, HENRY BELLMON, CARL CURTIS, JOHN DANFORTH, PETE DOMENICI, JAKE GARN, RICHARD LUGAR, ROBERT MORGAN, AND EDWARD ZORINSKY. SAYING THEY HAVE "SERIOUS DOUBTS" ABOUT SOVIET SINCERITY ON LIMITING ARMS, SENATORS WARNED THEY "WILL LOOK WITH GREAT DISFAVOR UPON RATIFICATION OF ANY SALT TWO AGREEMENT SO LONG AS SOVIET DEEDS BELIE THEIR WORDS." AMONG THINGS SENATORS SAID THEY FOUND "DEEPLY UNCLASSIFIED

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DISTURBING" WERE "SUBSTANTIAL BUILDUP" OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY FORCE, "ESCALATING RECORD OF INTERVENTION IN AFRICA," "COMPLIANCE PROBLEMS WITH SALT ONE AGREEMENTS WHICH, AT MINIMUM, INDICATE FAILURE TO ABIDE BY SPIRIT, IF NOT LETTER, OF THOSE AGREEMENTS," AND CONTINUING VIOLATING OF HELSINKI AGREEMENTS.

3. KATHLEEN TELTSCH OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT AT LEAST 20 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND 50 HIGH-RANKING MINISTERS FROM 149 NATIONS WILL APPEAR FOR OPENING DAYS OF SSOD AT U.N. "DECISION BY PRESIDENT CARTER NOT TO ATTEND AND TO HAVE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE DELIVER ADDRESS BY U.S. IS BEING VIEWED HERE AS AN INDICATION THAT ADMINISTRATION EITHER HAS NO SIGNIFICANT PROPOSALS TO PUT FORWARD OR SIMPLY DOES NOT ATTACH PRIORITY TO SESSION. IT IS BEING SAID THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY ALSO HAVE FIGURED IN DECISION, SINCE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN DENOUNCED IN CONGRESS AS YIELDING TOO MUCH IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSCOW. AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE APPEARED ANXIOUS IN RECENT DAYS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THEY REGARD SESSION AS MAJOR EVENT, AND THEY PROMISE SOMEWHAT VAGUELY TO MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION."

4. LOUIS WIZNITZER OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR OBSERVED THAT "SIGNIFICANT POLICY SHIFTS" BY CHINA AND FRANCE ENSURE THAT SSOD WILL NOT BE "MERE REPLAY OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT." FOR EXAMPLE, HE POINTED OUT, FRANCE, WHICH IS NOT MEMBER OF NPT, FOR FIRST TIME IS SHOWING INTEREST IN ARMS CURBING NEGOTIATIONS. CHINA, WHICH LIKEWISE HAS REMAINED OUT OF NPT, HAS DECIDED NOT TO BOYCOTT SSOD AND WILL BE REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA.

5. DON OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID IN REPORT MADE PUBLIC LAST FRIDAY, STATE DEPARTMENT NOTED THAT U.S. TURNED DOWN OR HEADED OFF MORE THAN ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN REQUESTS FOR ARMS SALES LAST YEAR FROM 67 COUNTRIES. DUE TO DIPLOMATIC SENSITIVITIES, OBERDORFER SAID, STATE DEPART-
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MENT DECLINED TO MAKE PUBLIC DETAILS OF ARMS REQUESTS THAT WERE "TURNED DOWN OR TURNED OFF" IN 1977. REPORT WAS RELEASED BY HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. VANCE

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